



All the top people are signing the 'Save a Baby' campaign petition



MR Moss Evans, General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, adds his signature to the petition, watched by Mr Lewis Carter-Jones, MP, who enlisted his support, and who has backed the 'Save a Baby' campaign since its inception. The petition is being circulated to all 8,000 branches of the Union with a personal letter from Mr Evans emphasising the importance of the campaign and recommending that it should be supported by members and their families.

TRADE Union leader Mr Moss Evans, and the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Peter Vanneck, add their signatures to the petition urging the Government to take urgent action to reduce the number of babies born dead or handicapped in the United Kingdom.

The nation-wide petition is organised by Supporters of The Spastics Society's 'Save a Baby' campaign, and in 1979 it will be presented to the House of Commons. By then, the Supporters hope that millions of people will have signed the petition to show their concern for the high rates of perinatal death and handicap in Britain compared with other industrialised countries in Western Europe. They urge the Government to improve services for mothers and babies, and finance research.

There is a petition form inside Spastics News, and the Supporters hope that the cause will meet a sympathetic response from readers, their friends and relatives.

Hon petition organiser Anne Dillon would like forms returned to her as soon as completed to: 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. And she will be delighted to send you more forms because she and the Supporters are hoping for five million signatures — a world record for a petition!



THE Lord Mayor of London, Sir Peter Vanneck, adds his signature to the 'Save a Baby' campaign petition book which is being signed by notable personalities from all walks of life.

20,000 choose six of the best

MORE than 20,000 entries were received for the 'Daily Express' competition to choose the six best winners of the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes over the past 27 years.

The competition raised £2,244 for The Spastic Society's Charity Race Meeting at Ascot on September 29. The appeal is in aid of the Society's 'Save a Baby' campaign which aims to reduce the high rates of death and handicap among Britain's babies and to raise £2 million towards further research into the prevention of spasticity.

The winner of the competition was Sergeant R. H. Edwards of RAF Lyneham, at Chippenham, Wilts, who was presented with a white Mini 1000 car by Mr E. G. J. Dawe of De Beers Consolidated who donated the prize at Ascot on Saturday July 22.

The competition was judged by three well-known racing commentators, Mr Peter O'Sullivan, Mr Peter Willett and Mr Peter Scott.

THREAT TO THE SPASTICS POOL?

THE Spastics Society took swift action following the report of the Royal Commission on Gambling which recommended the ending of charity football pools. With the possibility that the Spastics Pool could be at risk — the Pool has raised £31 million for the Society

in the last 21 years — the Society's Chairman, Mr Dorrien Belson, and Director, Mr James Loring, had urgent talks at the Home Office with Dr Shirley Summerskill, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State.

Also in the deputation were Mr Lewis Carter-Jones, MP, and Mr C. E.

Banham, Chairman of Tenovus, another charity pool. After hearing eloquent arguments in favour of retaining the pools, which provide so much badly-needed income for charitable organisations, Dr Summerskill told Spastics News:

'No decisions were taken. I listened to the points made and a lot of ground was covered. Now various aspects of the matter will be put forward for consideration by the Home Secretary.'

Income

Following the meeting, the Society submitted a written memorandum to Dr Summerskill emphasising the Society's need for the net Spastics Pool income of over £1,000,000 a year, and rejecting the possibility that the income could be made up from lotteries — a suggestion in the Royal Commission's Report.

The meeting at the Home Office lasted over an hour, and Mr Belson said that he thought Dr Summerskill understood the urgency of the situation. If the Pool Competitions Act, under which the Spastics Pool operates, was allowed to lapse



DORRIEN Belson, Chairman of The Spastics Society, and James Loring, the Director, outside the Home Office.

Still achieving...

JOE Hughes, the champion wheelchair fund-raiser from Belfast, who was last year awarded the MBE for his charity efforts, has been keeping up the good work with a sponsored "wheelchair push" which earned £200.

Joe, the winner of The Spastics Society's 1976 Achievement Award, now attends the National Star Centre for Disabled Youth at Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. His latest fund-raising effort, in which he took 5½ hours to push himself backwards over a 10-mile course, was in aid of a new swimming pool for the centre.

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Cont. on page 5

Help with fares to work

FOR some severely disabled people, finding a job is sometimes less of a problem than actually getting to work. Wheelchair users or those who walk with crutches often find it impossible to use public transport, while the alternatives are too expensive.

Many of these people are entitled to help under the Manpower Services Commission's fares to work scheme. To meet the conditions of the scheme, applicants must be registered as disabled, be unable to use public transport for all or part of the journey to work because of disability, and, for this reason, incur extra travel costs.

Extra costs

The financial assistance provided is usually paid towards taxi fares, at a rate of three-quarters of the total cost, up to £25 for a five-day week. Applications for assistance with extra costs other than taxi fares will be considered individually.

Applications for assistance should be made in the first instance to local disablement resettlement officers who can be contacted through any local Job Centre or employment office.

Society's first school was her challenge—and her achievement

IT was April Fool's Day, 1955, when Cecily Kearslake arrived to take over as headmistress of Craig-y-Parc school in South Wales. The builders were in possession and spastic children due to take up residence in six weeks. As she surveyed the chaos of mud, plaster and wood shavings, the significance of the date must have struck home forcibly. But with typical optimism, she made use of the only equipment which had arrived — 36 plastic beakers — and filled them with daffodils from the spacious grounds.

Throughout that first spring the flowers glowed from every shelf and windowsill untouched by the builders, and ever since the house has been a haven of warmth and colour.

Craig-y-Parc was not only the first school to be opened by the National Spastics Society (as it was then known) but the first school for the physically



handicapped in Wales. Mrs Kearslake, who retired in July, has been Headmistress for the whole of the school's 23-year existence.

The house was built for a coal magnate between 1915 and 1919. Although it is in the Elizabethan style, there is no air of mass-produced 'Stock-brokers' Tudor,' but an exquisite replica of a 16th century manor house, lovingly wrought by local craftsmen.

The Society paid £9,500 for it in November 1954 and started conversions to make it

suitable for handicapped children. The builders worked from early in the morning until late in the evening to complete the work.

The mid-50s were the years when the Society was expanding so rapidly that administration was sometimes chaotic, but, says Mrs Kearslake:

'It was a real challenge, daring the world in showing what could be done for the handicapped.'

In May 1955, the first 13 children were admitted to Craig-y-Parc and by September of the same year there were 35 pupils. Now, the school has 58 boarders and five day pupils aged between six and 14. Most of the brightest students go on to the Society's Thomas Delarue School in Kent at the age of 11.

Mrs Kearslake came to Craig-y-Parc with 17 years' teaching experience behind her, but when she started her career, she had no thought of teaching handicapped children. She spent some time coaching a scholarship class for Common Entrance and found the work very routine and boring.

Whole child

'I felt I wanted to work with the whole child rather than merely as a crammer for exams. I suppose it was the social worker side of me coming out — so I decided to take a job at a school for handicapped children.'

She taught in two special schools, in one of which she was deputy head.

'This was a residential school and the staff were very resistant to change. The atmosphere hung like a pall over the place.'

She was determined when she had her own school, to encourage plenty of change and activity. Under her leadership, a Conductive Education Unit has been introduced at Craig-y-Parc, the Bliss Communication system (described in last month's 'Spastics News') has been pioneered and Craig-y-Parc was the first school in Wales to use the initial teaching alphabet. There is also an 'independence flat' at the school where senior pupils stay for short periods learning to housekeep for themselves.

Another legacy of her days as Deputy Head of a special school is a rooted aversion to any signs of institutionalisation. No wheelchairs or walking aids stand about in the passageways. The only aids in sight are those actually in use when they become an extension of the child himself. The house, with its thick carpets,

chintz armchairs, lamps, pictures and vases of flowers everywhere, conveys an atmosphere of gracious country-house living rather than an institution. The impression is reinforced by two friendly dogs and a cat which purrs contentedly in the filing tray.

Highlights of Mrs Kearslake's career as headmistress of Craig-y-Parc included the opening of a new classroom and therapy block by the late Princess Marina in 1964. Another royal occasion was the opening of the Mint at Llantrisant in 1958. Many pupils were enthusiastic coin collectors and 10 of them were invited to the ceremony, together with their headmistress and four members of staff. Mrs Kearslake was presented to the Queen and later the children enjoyed talking about their interest in numismatics to Her Majesty, Prince Philip and Prince Charles.

In May 1976, the school held its 21st Anniversary, to which the earliest pupils were

GIFTS and tributes marked the retirement of Cecily Kearslake from Craig-y-Parc School at the end of term, and her achievement in the education of handicapped children was marked by wide coverage in Welsh newspapers.

In this picture by the South Wales Echo, Cecily Kearslake is seen with (left to right) Llinos Williams, nine, of Brecon, Tommy Allen, 10, of Bax and Rachel Thomas, nine, of Machen. The three children, with their fellow pupils at Craig-y-Parc school, will be getting used to a new headmistress next term.

At a ceremony to mark Mrs Kearslake's retirement, attended by Spastics Society staff, officers from Top Ten Promotions Ltd and many other friends made over 23 years, Director James Loring spoke of the important contribution paid by The Spastics Society's first headteachers in establishing the new charity as a responsible body, able to provide facilities at least as good as those of the local authorities.

'We have had in Mrs Kearslake not only a delightful person but a quite brilliant head teacher who virtually created this school,' he said.

invited, many of them now married with children of their own. For Mrs Kearslake, it was a satisfying experience to see that some of her most severely handicapped pupils had grown up to make a success of their lives.

She therefore begins her retirement with a real sense of achievement, and will continue helping the handicapped.

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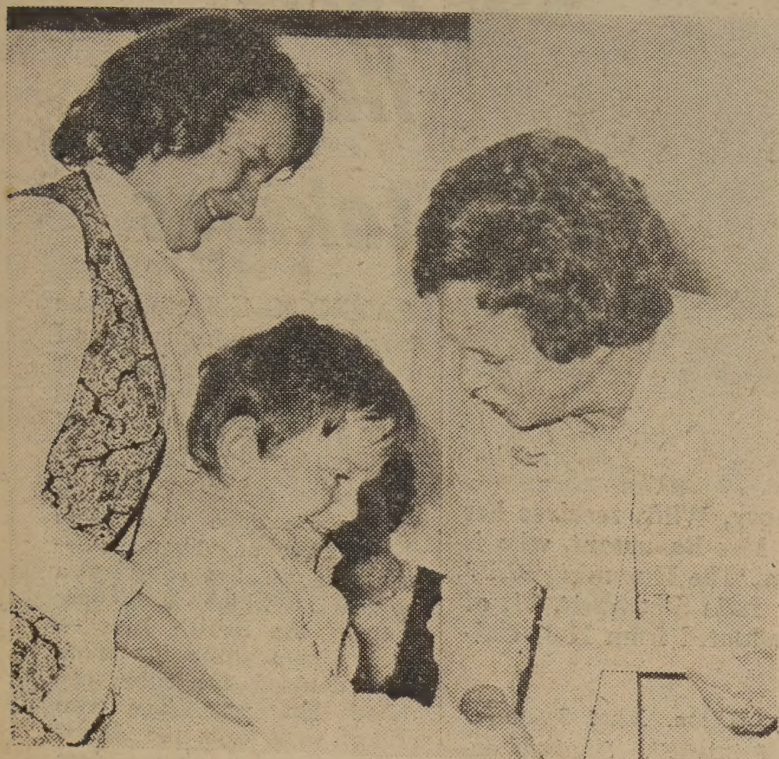
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WINNING WAYS WITH WORDS



MARY McKenzie of Helmsdale, Sutherland, introduces her son Terry, aged 10 to Lady Wilson. Terry's story about a snowstorm won him the £5 second prize in the children's section. Terry was one of two prize winners from the Westernlea School for Spastic Children in Edinburgh — the other was James Anderson.



EVERY year James Loring, the Society's Director, awards a special prize to one of the youngsters who have been unlucky enough not to win the children's section yet deserve a prize. This year it went to Robbie McDonald, aged eight, pictured above with the Director, who, despite his Scots name, lives in Ascot, Berks.



SUSAN Manship is just 10 and her winning entry in the children's category described 'very clearly her love for animals,' said Lady Wilson. That love was captured in this appealing picture by photographer Ray Christopher of Susan, as she cuddles fellow prizewinner, Gillian Hinds' guide dog, Una. Susan comes from Fareham, Hants, and her prize was a cheque for £10.

Day of praise and prizes for writers

IT was one of the most relaxed, friendly and easy-going literary contest presentations ever, with the judges arriving early so that they could chat with the lucky winners they had chosen from hundreds of entries.

There were regulars like Lady Wilson, who has presented the prizes each year since the first contest in 1970, and James Anderson, 14, whose third winning visit it was. 'My goodness,' exclaimed Lady Wilson, you have shot up, James, I didn't recognise you!

Mrs Edna Healey, a first time judge who candidly announced she hoped she would be asked to judge again, suddenly discovered she had mislaid her glasses and the Society's Informa-

tion Department came to her rescue with a spare pair.

James Loring, the Society's Director, welcomed the panel of judges headed by Lady Wilson who, in addition to the poetry section, this year added the children's section to her brief. Mrs Healey, wife of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who is herself a much acclaimed biographer, adjudicated on the adolescents while Michael Randolph, Editor of the British Reader's Digest, judged the adult male writers, and Lord Willis, playwright and peer, judged women writers.

Lady Wilson had

enjoyed her double work load and found the standard extremely high, but added a mild rebuke for those who, intent on being creative, had been less than accurate with their spelling. 'It may be a bit pedantic but if you are unsure of a word you can always look it up in the dictionary,' she said. But she stressed that above all it was important to keep writing.

Mrs Healey paid tribute to Lady Wilson with the description of a scene that had taken place at 10 Downing Street which, said Mrs Healey, she would never forget. 'A dinner had been given to celebrate the first astronauts to land on the moon. After the official reception Mary, with one of the many little acts of kindness for which she is well known,

Cont. on page 4



CHRISTOPHER Nolan is the 12-year-old spastic boy from Clontarf, Dublin, that everyone wanted to meet. Judge Mrs Edna Healey called his work 'beyond comparison.' She presented him with a special prize of a watch, donated by the Spastics Pool. Christopher's mother, Bernadette (pictured centre) believes that it is through watching 'Mastermind' and similar programmes that her son has acquired his exceptional vocabulary, and 'Mastermind's' producer, Bill Wright (right), presented him with books as the programme's recognition of Christopher's amazing talent.



THE judges are always different but James Anderson of Broxburn is always a winner and here, with his mother, he meets Mrs Edna Healey who awarded James first place in the adolescents section for his 'Auld year's night story.' The tale about his grandfather not only captured the £20 first prize but Mrs Healey's imagination. 'Give my love to your grandfather,' she told James, 'I really feel that I know him after reading your entry.' Second prize winner in the section was Gwyneth Ivey of Shotton Colliery, County Durham, age 15, a pupil at the Society's Thomas Delarue School. Her sensitive story 'The Wood' won her the £10 prize.



MICHAEL Randolph, Reader's Digest Editor, was greatly impressed with the work of David Swift who comes from Clifton Village, Nottingham. As he handed over the £30 first prize in the adult male section he asked David: 'Are you any relation of the famous Swift, the essayist?' 'Not yet!' was David's swift reply!

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Literary contest winners



HARRIET Annie Holgate was accompanied from the Spofforth Hall Cheshire Home, near Harrogate, where she lives, by Matron Sharpe, and here they pose with Lord Willis, who had awarded Annie the £30 first prize in the adult women's section. Annie, who has cerebral palsy, gave her life story the title: 'Smiling Through.' Gillian Hinds, a housewife and mother from Northampton, who is blind, won the £15 second prize in the section. Her guide dog Una threatened to steal the show and Lord Willis, who judged Gillian's work, said: 'If I'd known I'd have brought my labrador along!'

Cont. from page 3

arranged for the astronauts to meet a group of young disabled people.

'It was a remarkable meeting of courageous men who had overcome their physical environment to walk on the moon together with young people making the same struggle with courage and ability against their physical environment.'

Michael Randolph emphasised that as an Editor he was an enabler—enabling people to appear in print. He did not claim to be a writer himself. To string words together was not the same as writing, and he had found the judging hard work.

In addition to prize money there were special prizes. Robbie McDonald, of Ascot, Berks, won the Director's Prize of books for his poem 'The Following Donkey' and there was a watch for Christopher Nolan, the 12-year-old Dublin boy whose literary ability Mrs Healey called 'luminous and obscure.'

She said: 'Like all great poetry his writing has flashes of genius. He sees something which we for a moment see with him. To me this is great talent.'

'He has a feel for poetry. He is in the tradition of that other great Irish poet W. B. Yeats.'

Bill Wright, producer of BBC 2's Mastermind programme which Christopher



MRS Hilda Beaumont, of Salisbury, Wilts, receives her poetry prize from Lady Wilson. Mrs Beaumont, who is totally deaf, won £15 for her poem, 'The Humming Bird.' Second prize of £10 was won by Julie Smethurst, 21, of Sheffield, Yorks, who has just graduated from Hull University, for her poem 'Universe.'

watches avidly, said: 'Three days ago I didn't know such talent existed, although I am surrounded by talent at Mastermind.'

The Mastermind team presented Christopher with books as well as a signed photograph of Magnus Magnusson, the programme's presenter.

Earlier Lady Wilson had mentioned that TV viewing had been responsible for a decline in spelling. Bill Wright added: 'It is terribly rewarding to know that somebody like Christopher can get so much out of watching a television programme.'

There were four highly commended entrants: Neill Cadmore, 11, of The Wilfred Pickles School, whose prize was two books autographed by

Lady Wilson. Janet Swanton, of Prittlewell, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, who received a book autographed by Lord Willis, plus a personal cheque for £10 for her essay. Josephine Clark, of Aintree, Liverpool, also received a cheque. John Hawkrige, of Butterbowl Gardens, Leeds, received an autographed book from Michael Randolph.

Mrs Healey, when she heard that some of the prize-winners were going on a sight-seeing tour of London later that evening, insisted they should call in at 11 Downing Street if it was convenient.

So the Society's minibus stopped at the Chancellor's door and Mrs Healey took them on a guided tour of her residence and that of the Prime Minister. She gave them signed pictures of her husband.

'Flashes of genius'

THE poetry of Christopher Nolan was a compelling feature of this year's literary contest. Here are two of his poems, and the comments added to them by this remarkable boy of 12, whose writing is described as having 'flashes of genius.'

I LEARN TO BOW

Polarised I was paralysed
Plausibility palated.
People realised totally,
Woefully once I totally opened their eyes.

This is my first poem, my first breakthrough from my silent world.

I PEER THROUGH UGLINESS

Years dead tears, peter down my face,
Lucifer quietly plays me down,
Out of a light there came Christ Divine,
Peace always comes reigns awhile.
Day after dawn raw quiet rested there as I peered through
Rough pastures, dew drops glistened in golden buttercups.

I typed that poem because every day I realised more and more how handicapped I was.

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Groups raise flag day takings

PATRICK Goldstone, the Society's London regional officer, has nothing but praise for the groups in his area after the flag day held in Greater London in July.

'Despite the fact that we could have done with treble the number of volunteers — after all we are covering a population which is 20 per cent of the British Isles — every single group has more than doubled the sum they raised last year, and two groups went over the £1,000 mark. Croydon always does very well and they made just over £1,000 while West Middlesex raised over £1,700. To date the total is nearly £7,000 with a quarter of the groups still to send in their figures. It was a magnificent effort and now we hope very much that the groups will be generous in their contributions to the 'Save a Baby' campaign.'

'Yes' to social workers

SOCIAL workers are often much maligned, but the answer to the question: 'Are Social Workers really necessary?' was a reassuring response of 'yes' at a seminar held at the Society's Family Services and Assessment Centre at Fitzroy Square in July.

Richard Marler, who is the Society's co-ordinator of social work with residential units, had invited representatives from some of the adult house units and residential centres near London to a seminar with a team of social workers assigned to residential units.

He explained: 'The purpose of the seminar was to discuss views from residents living in the Society's units on the service provided by the visiting social workers. The discussions were frank and helpful. Most participants felt that it was helpful to talk over problems with someone outside their unit and it was felt important that discussions were private and confidential, although most did not mind the social worker discussing them with the warden or manager—provided they were consulted beforehand. Residents also liked to be notified of impending visits well in advance. All but one unit welcomed regular visits and felt that it was an essential service. Now we hope to invite residents from other units to a similar meeting.'

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SN Aug 6

Praise for 'Priority of Priorities' advert

'EXCELLENT,' 'poignant,' 'moving,' 'not mawkish' are all terms used to describe an advertisement placed by The Spastics Society in newspapers, magazines and periodicals as part of the 'Save a Baby' campaign.

Now, in the first ever 'Ad of the Month' competition

run by the Guardian newspaper, the Society's challenging advertisement: 'If you're born British, you could be a born loser,' has been judged in the top six.

There was a 1,000 member judging panel whose job was to evaluate over 50 advertisements appearing in the newspaper in one month.

A freelance editor said of the advertisement, which includes the words 'The Priority

of Priorities' in the shaky handwriting of Rosemary Dawson - Shepherd, 'This advertisement hit, and continues to hit me both in the eyeballs and the stomach which all excellent advertisements seem to do.'

An article clerk commented: 'Slumped in a chair, exhausted after the problems of the working day, staring at the newspaper — suddenly a headline stands out,' while a BBC producer wrote: 'The spidery handwriting of the spastic person caught the eye

and the bold print and lay-out hammered home the facts: poignant and moving.'

An export manager's opinion was: 'After all the neatly arranged typefaces we usually see, the shaky handwriting jumps out to catch the attention then aims straight for the heart.'

A theatre manager added: 'The final twist of the knife comes with the slogan . . . which brings a gradual dawning of the implications of handicap. This is done so boldly that it is poignant not

mawkish.'

Behind the advertisement which reaped such a rich harvest of praise was George Hynes and Partners.

But the Society's adverts did not please one reader of the Guardian. The newspaper published a letter from Mr Larry Walters, of Solihull, West Midlands, complaining that it was 'most regrettable' that more thought had not been given to the implications of the advertisements. He wrote:

'Although, during recent

years, certain unfortunate connotations have been given to the word "spastic" there are spastics, such as myself, who are able to earn a living and do, in fact, pay taxes.

'Even those who are in a less fortunate position, must be more than a little hurt at being classified as being a burden on society.'

'This campaign would seem to confirm my premise that, in relation to disability, tact, empathy and understanding are not always to be found in the most obvious places.'

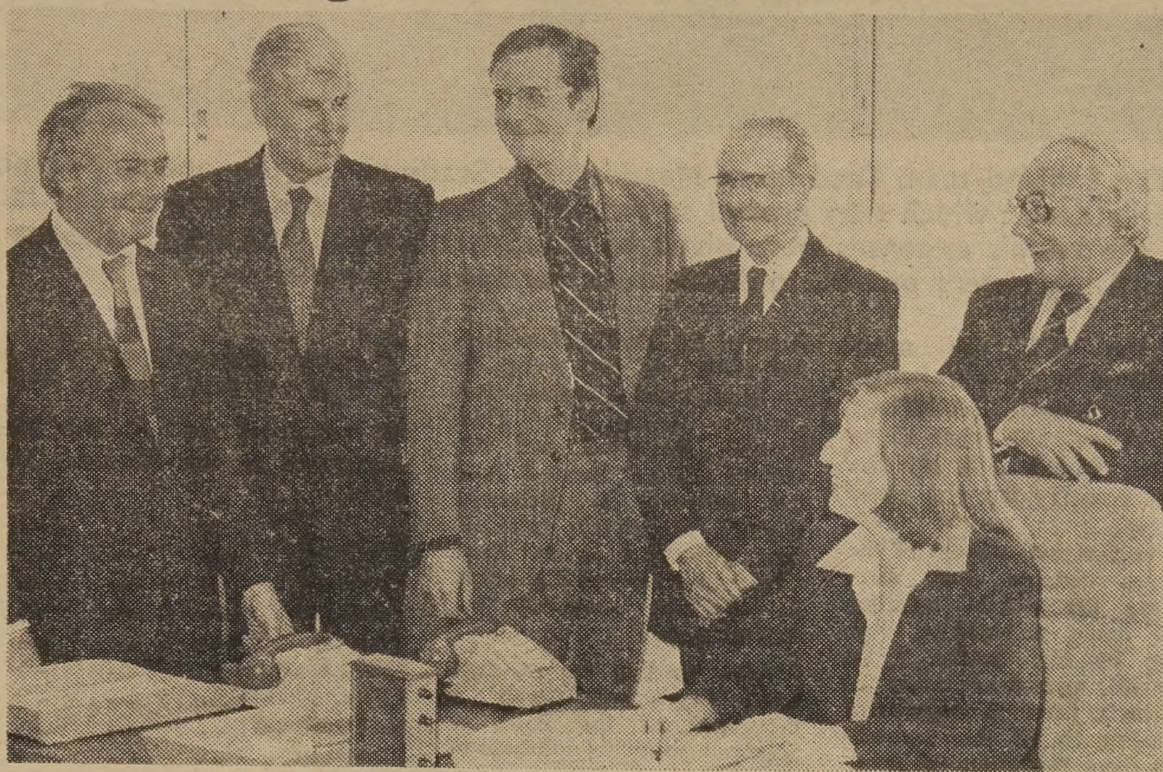
£5,000 boost for 'Save a Baby' fund

THE 'Save a Baby' campaign has just received a £5,000 boost from the Committee of Friends at the Percy Hedley Centre for Spastics, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

At a recent meeting the committee voted to send what has proved to be the single biggest contribution to the Campaign so far from within the Society.

Said Michael Brophy, Director of Fund Raising: 'We are extremely grateful to the committee for its generosity. In addition we have received £4,000 from the Northern Ireland Council for Orthopaedic Development and a very large sum from Preston.'

Meeting at the Home Office



● A SMILING Dr Shirley Summerskill, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office, with James Loring, Dorrien Belson, Peter Marshall, research assistant; C. E. Banham, Chairman of Tenovus, and Lewis Carter-Jones, MP, at the conclusion of the meeting. See story on Page 1 and below.

Society acts to end controversy over new centre

THE Spastics Society, concerned to 'put first things first,' has intervened to end the controversy over the Douglas Arter Centre for multi-handicapped young people in Odstock Road, Salisbury. In July it assumed complete control for the running and management of the new purpose-built £235,000 'centre.'

Its decision, made solely in the interests of the handicapped, follows on the difficulty in securing agreement between the Salisbury and District Spastics Association and the Wiltshire County Council about which specific needs the centre should cater for.

Says Mr Derek Lancaster-Gaye, the Society's Director of Resources: 'We felt it was necessary to put first things first. While the centre remains empty, handicapped young people and their parents are the losers. But their needs are paramount. This is why we have withdrawn our offer to donate the centre to the County Council, and instead to assume responsibility for it ourselves.'

'We feel sure that all those members of the public who helped to finance the building of the centre will be glad to see it come into use as swiftly as possible so that severely handicapped young people in the area can benefit from its facilities.'

Burden

The Society is already responsible for 60 schools and centres throughout England and Wales. Hence its decision to take over the new Salisbury centre will add considerably to its financial burden, and stretch its resources still further at a time when it is also heavily engaged in a nationwide 'Save a Baby' campaign which aims to reduce the high rates of death and needless handicap among Britain's babies. But it was felt there was no alternative.

The Douglas Arter Centre has provision for eight residents and 24 day attenders. It will now accept spastic people from various parts of the country, though it is intended that a majority of candidates will come from within Wiltshire and neighbouring areas. If necessary, more residential

accommodation may be made available later.

It will also cater for both school-leavers and young adults within the age range of 16-40, with priority for places being given to those leaving school.

The first group of young people to make use of the new centre are expected to move in within three weeks. Others will be able to take advantage of its facilities as more staff are appointed.

And The Spastics Society is confident that 'the County Council and ourselves will be able to co-operate fully at a professional level, as we have done so happily in the past.'

Summer unfair!

PAMELA Watson is an East Grinstead housewife who 'likes to be doing something' so when she heard The Spastics Society were advertising for volunteers she decided to have a go. She sat down in February and typed 300 letters to everybody she could think of and with the donations that came in she held a July Summer Fair in Felbridge Village Hall.

'It went very well considering the rain was bucketing down and it was dreadfully cold! At 1 o'clock I had to make the decision to bring as many stalls into the hall as we could and we were frightfully cramped. David Jason opened the fair and was tremendously good fun, joining in the side shows and being absolutely marvellous. Out of 50 stalls we had to leave 23 outside unused and despite everything we still made £670.'

'Now we've got a disco coming up in September and a dance on December 23. And I expect I'll run a fete next summer!'

The money will go towards equipment for the deaf unit at the Society's Ingfield Manor School, Sussex.

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The following papers will be given and plenty of time will be allowed for general discussion of each presentation:

The responsibilities and aims of a parent group. Starting a new parent group and the work of a mature one.

Provision of short term care within the community. A new experiment to be shown on film.

Building and running a Toy Library for cerebral palsied children.

Pre-school provision for handicapped children—the importance of the mixed play group.

Disabled Children—Counting the Costs. A practical paper on transport, laundry costs, the 'extras' needed by a family with a handicapped child.

The ICPS Seminar will be followed at 17.45 by the Annual General Meeting of the International Cerebral Palsy Society.

If you would like to take part in the ICPS one-day Seminar or the Annual General Meeting, please get in touch immediately with:

Janet Miller,
The International Cerebral Palsy Society,
5a Netherhall Gardens,
London NW3 5RN.
01-794 9761.

Dr Teresa Serra, Italian Spastics Society and Mrs Daphne Economou, Spastics Society, Athens.

Mrs Barbara Garrett, Senior Social Worker, Somerset County Council Social Services Department.

Mrs Christina Louro, Social Worker, Portuguese Spastics Society.

Mrs Barbro Ekstrom, Folke Bernadotte Home, Uppsala, Sweden.

Mrs Sally Baldwin, Department of Social Administration, University of York.

Cont. from page 1

in July 1979, as the Commission suggested, he said there was 'no way' that the Society could make up the loss of income within the foreseeable future.

The suggestion that the lost income could be made up by lotteries — which themselves came under heavy criticism in another part of the Report — was 'impracticable.'

Mr Loring also acted to enlist the support of Mr Alf Morris, MP, Minister for the Disabled, with this telegram on July 26:

'If Royal Commission on Gambling's recommendations that Pool Competitions Act be allowed to lapse were accepted by government, substantial part of Spastics Society's services to spastics would be jeopardised and research programme seriously curtailed. Loss of approximately £1 million income could not be replaced by lotteries as suggested. Received sympathetically by Dr Summerskill this morning and am now providing full details of position. Meantime we ask your full support as Minister for the Disabled.'

In a letter to the Sunday Telegraph, Mr Loring said that the Commission's proposal that charity-supporting Pools should be phased out in July 1979, and replaced by lotteries — even though lotteries are heavily criticised in the Report — was both 'misleading and impracticable.'

He went on: 'If the income received from the Spastics Pool ceased next summer this would be catastrophic for us and it would be very many

years before it could be replaced, if ever.'

The income from the Pool played a vital role in helping the Society to provide its many services for cerebral palsied people, who suffer from one of the world's most crippling conditions, he said, and added:

'Our correspondence files show that a majority of those who support our Pool do so with the express purpose of helping this Society and those it serves, and not an anonymous good cause.'

Pool's view

A spokesman for the Spastics Pool — which celebrates its 21st anniversary this year in the proud knowledge that it has contributed £31 million to the Society and other £5 million to other good causes — pointed out that the Royal Commission's Report contained 300 separate recommendations for amendments to existing legislation. Certain recommendations affected the sphere of operation under which the Pool operated and the board of directors of Top Ten Promotions was, in conjunction with the Society, carefully considering the whole Report before deciding what representations, if any, it will need to make at an appropriate time.

The spokesman emphasised strongly that the Report contained recommendations only, and would no doubt be subject to much debate in the months to come.

At the Banquet at London's Guildhall (report page 10), Mr Belson told the eminent gathering that if the Report's recommendations concerning charity pools were implemented, 'the handicapped will be the most adversely affected.'

SCOTS HOST A SPORTING SPECTACULAR

International Games at Edinburgh

Eric Dow reports

IT was just as the Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of the Scottish Council for Spastics, predicted in his welcoming message — a 'thrill and pleasure' for all who attended. From start to finish and against the dramatic backdrop of the Edinburgh skyline, the 4th International Cerebral Palsy Games fulfilled completely the vow of the Scottish hosts that they would be the best of the series so far.

They were also the largest, nearly 400 competitors from 16 countries taking part, accompanied by another 250 helpers and supporters, and observers from Hong Kong and Kuwait. That this vast concourse was fed, housed, transported, entertained and generally looked after with scarcely a single mix-up was a veritable triumph for Commander Archie Cameron, Director of the Scottish Council, and the tireless members of his organising committee.

There was also a little matter of organising the right contestants from the right countries into the right categories of more than 260 different events!

Though the Games took

place officially from July 16 to 20, the first party arrived as early as the 14th, and the last (who took part in a three-day holiday tour of the West of Scotland organised by the Scottish Tourist Board) did not leave until the 24th. All in all it was little wonder that



• The England team lined up at Meadowbank Stadium for the opening ceremony, and ready for the events at which they proved so successful that they topped the medals table. Generous grants to the team's expenses were given by the Spastics Pool, just one of the many ways in which the Pool's promoters provide opportunities for spastic people.

at the end, the most bemused figure was that of Leif Sorensen, leader of the contingent from Denmark, which will be the host country for the 1980 Games.

The first major event of the Games actually took place before the official opening, this being a thrilling sky-drop by the Golden Lions free-fall parachute team to deliver a personal message of welcome to all the competitors from the Duke of Edinburgh. It took place at Milton Bridge Camp, on the outskirts of the city, generously provided as accommodation for the visitors by Lieut-

General Sir David Scott-Barrett, GOC of the Army in Scotland. Lance-Corporal Bob Charters of the King's Own Scottish Borderers and the Golden Lions, handed over the message to Brigadier Donald McLennan, who in turn presented it to Lord Clydesmuir who read it out at the opening ceremony the following day.

After reading the message, Lord Clydesmuir, who is Governor of the Bank of Scotland, principal sponsors of the Games, added his personal welcome, particularly to the overseas competitors and their helpers and to the guest of honour, Sir Ludwig Guttman, 'father' of paraplegic sport and President of the International Sports Organisation for the Disabled.

In this connection he was delighted to learn that the cerebral palsied had been invited to take part as a separate section in the Paraplegic Olympic Games to be held in Holland in 1980.

In thanking all the individuals and organisations involved in the Games, Lord Clydesmuir mentioned his own long connection with the promotion of sport through the National Playing Fields Association, and that his former home in Lanarkshire was now a residential home for spastics.

Concluding, he told the serried ranks of competitors at Meadowbank Stadium: 'Let's start the action.'

Mr Archie McConnochie, Chairman of the Scottish Council for Spastics, expressed the gratitude of the Council to Lord Clydesmuir and all the organisations whose generosity had enabled the Games to be held. He hoped the result would be that all the contestants would remember the 4th International Cerebral Palsy Games as one of the outstanding events in their lives.

• One of the most impressive of the Games' non-sporting events was undoubtedly the government reception accorded many of the competitors and their helpers in the 11th Century Great Hall of Edinburgh Castle. The scene of murder, plot and intrigue over the centuries, the Hall provided a memorable scene for every one of the guests. They were officially welcomed by Lord McCluskey, Solicitor-General for Scotland, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government.

And the Great Hall of Edinburgh Castle must be one of the most inaccessible places on earth for people in wheelchairs, but a great number made it!

Top score for England

IN terms of medals, the English team was the most successful at the Games. Here is the detailed medals table:

	Gold	Silver	Bronze
England	61	54	46
Holland	40	27	29
Scotland	21	17	20
France	26	20	8
West Germany	15	19	15
USA	22	10	16
Switzerland	16	11	7
Denmark	26	6	2
Belgium	15	14	7
Sweden	13	9	4
Yugoslavia	6	5	3
Norway	3	4	2
Eire	1	4	4
Israel	3	5	1
Canada	3	0	2



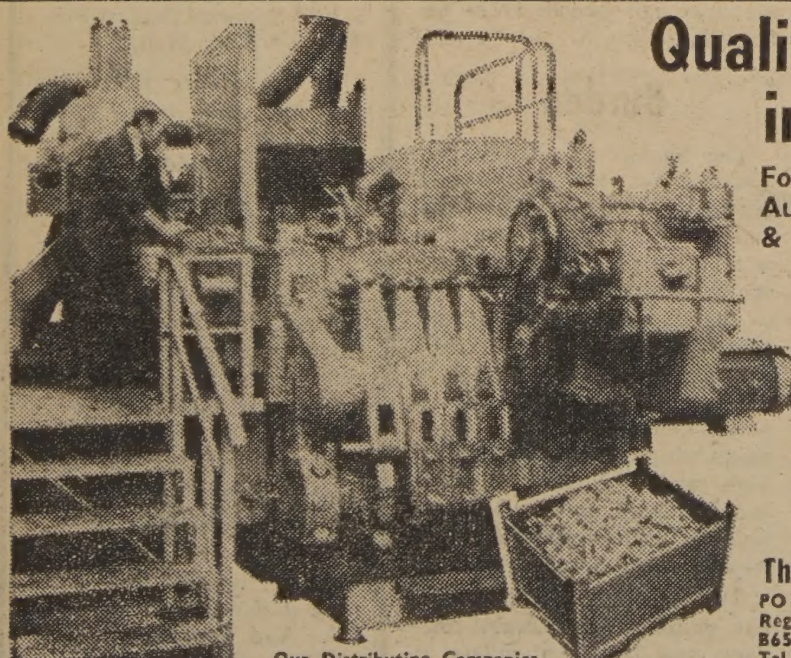
• A WINNER from Switzerland is congratulated by Commander Archie Cameron, Director of the Scottish Council for Spastics.

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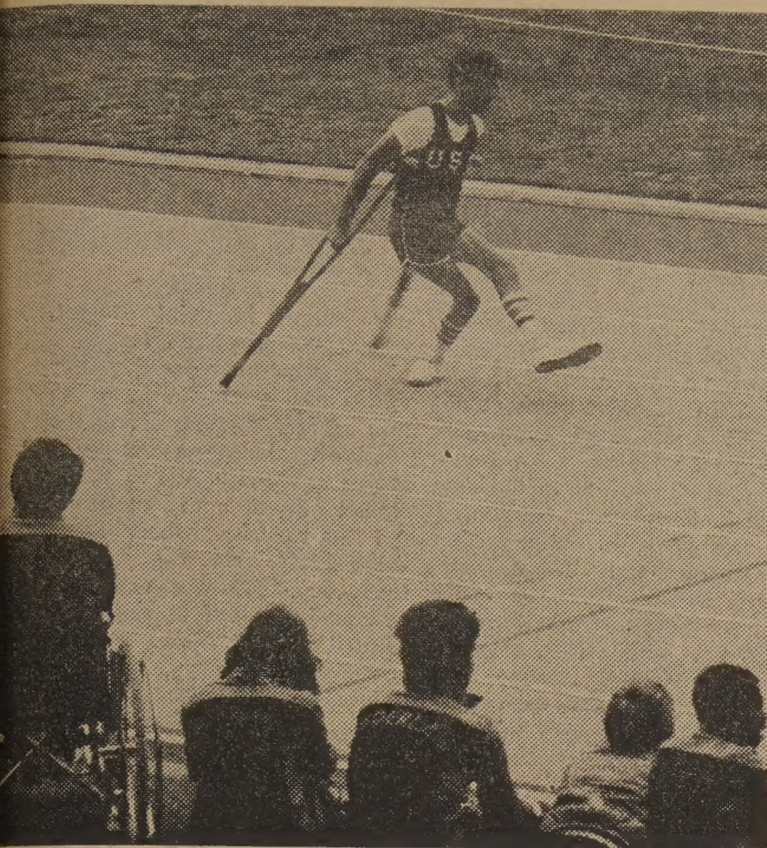
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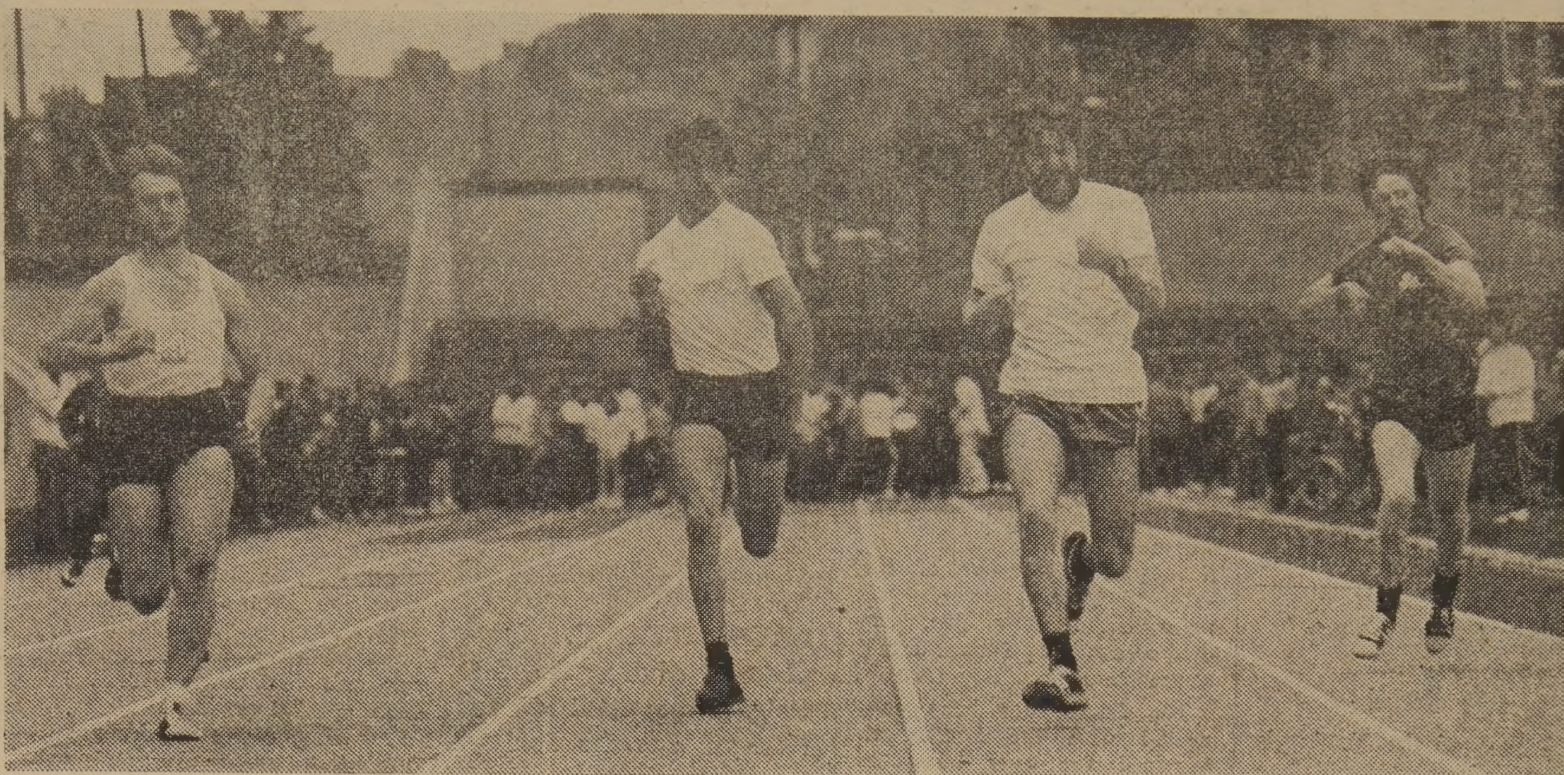
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The spirit of the Games



● PICTURES which sum up the determination, spirit and good sportsmanship of competitors at the Games. **On the left**, a runner from the USA who had the crowds cheering as he took part in a race — on crutches. **Above**: A close finish in the 400-metre race — and just look at the effort on the faces of the athletes. **Picture below**: Proud moment on the medallists stand for the winners of one of the senior discus events. First was Barbara England (pictured centre), second was Helen Batchelor (left), and third was Denise Ramshaw.

New body to run games

THE emotion-filled moment when Cdr Archie Cameron, Director of The Scottish Council for Spastics, congratulating everyone for their help and good sportsmanship, formally closed the Games, included an announcement of world importance to spastics.

He said: 'These are the last Games to be held under the auspices of the International Cerebral Palsy Society. As from today, a new organisation takes over with the blessing of the Society and that of the International Sports Organisation for the Disabled, which is to be called the Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association.'

'This body will, in future, be responsible for all international sports and recreational events concerning cerebral palsied people throughout the world. The next Games, in Denmark in 1980, will be held under the auspices of the new Association.'

Stadium snippets...

One of the most popular figures at the games was the sole Canadian competitor, Rachelle Halpenny. Married, with a three-year-old son, chairbound Rachelle carried off three gold medals and two bronze nonetheless. . . . Those smart boys and girls who acted as markers for the teams at the opening ceremony and made themselves useful thereafter, were from George Watson's College, Edinburgh. . . . So moved was he by the spirit and sheer guts of badly-handicapped contestants that one normally hard-bitten TV cameraman left the field almost in tears. . . . The 'lucky programme' Newton Aids wheelchair was won by a Belgian competitor. . . . Spectators at both Meadowbank and the Royal Commonwealth Pool included parties from all Scottish Council establishments. . . .



Thorny problem of integration at school

AS a parent of a 21-year-old chairbound spastic son, I feel, as many other parents must, that my son missed out on under-five and over-16 special education.

A handicapped child at five is not prepared to meet the demands of normal five-year-olds. He has missed the 'lessons at his mother's knee,' following her around the house 'helping' and 'learning,' therefore, he is immediately at a disadvantage and apart from being 'different,' play-time and games would make him feel different.

This means that special schools and special facilities must be available so that the handicapped can reach their potential, and this should continue for four or five years after 16. Integration should concentrate on the social side of life. There are no two handicapped people alike so that more individual teaching is essential.

Section 10 of the Education Act is eventually to be brought into force, and whatever happens, segregation and integration will call for more specialised teaching all round and I wonder are we prepared for it yet?

I was distressed recently

when visiting a large comprehensive school to see a spastic girl I knew, sitting entirely alone and looking dejected at break-time, and I was told she was very much a loner, intelligent, but not up to the standard of her age group!

I would end by saying integration for the lightly handicapped, but definitely special units and special schools for extended school-days of the heavier handicapped.

Mrs C. E. Williams,
Member of Executive
Council of The
Spastics Society.

LETTERS

Too late?

I WAS very interested to read the views of the 'experts' on the Warnock Report (Spastics News, July), but I thought that the comments of the spastics people on the pros and cons of integrated education were the most pertinent. They welcomed the opportunity to integrate with the 'able-bods' as early as possible, and surely they are right. Acceptance must begin in the schoolroom, afterwards it is too late.

Miss J. B.,
Manchester.

Any ideas

I WAS delighted to read in Spastics News, July issue, of Christopher Nolan, the spastic boy who operates the typewriter with his head, but I was equally amazed that no one has come up with a device that could support his chin to save his mother having to do so. Perhaps some sort of rest on a spring, as seen in children's toys with nodding heads, might be the answer. I hope that someone may come up with an idea after seeing the article in the paper.

C. E. Guttman,
Area Nurse (Child Health),
Lincolnshire Area
Health Authority,
Lincoln.

Good news

THE article in Spastics News about Mrs Jean Anderton and the holiday home for the handicapped she set up in memory of her little son, was an inspiration. If only we could hear more about the good people in national newspapers and magazines, then the world would be a happier place. Why do they always give us the bad news?

A. MacDonald,
Strathclyde.

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Best sports all-rounder chosen

THE Spastics Society has held an exciting new competition to find the best all-round sportsman of the year. The two-day event took place at the Thomas Delarue School, Tonbridge, Kent, and spastic competitors came from all parts of the country.

They each had to take part in six out of 10 events, including one water sport. The choice could be made from swimming, canoeing, horse riding, weight lifting, table tennis, precision javelin, medicine ball throw, basket ball shooting, archery and rifle shooting. There was canoe practice and safety drill in the school pool before competitors took their craft on the River Medway.

The winner was Norman Burns of Gateshead with 50 points. Runners-up were Richard Bebbington, Manchester, 45 points; Pat Wilson, Redruth, 40 points; John Crozier, Newcastle, 39 points; and Alan Bagshaw, Chelmsford, 33 points.

Retirement—after 30 years at Westerlea

MISS Anne Mathams, head teacher for the past 30 years of Westerlea School for Spastics, Edinburgh, has retired. At one time a lecturer at Moray House Teacher Training College, Miss Mathams is almost a founder member of the Scottish Council for Spastics having taught at Westerlea since it was founded in September 1948.

Her successor is Miss Myrtle Plenderleith, who has been a member of the staff at Westerlea since February 1965, and who had previous teaching

experience at Broughton Primary School and Niddrie Primary School, Edinburgh.

In recognition of her outstanding service to spastic children from every part of Scotland, Miss Mathams has been presented with a music centre and cheque from the pupils, staff and supporters of Westerlea School.

Watford's loss

MR Gordon Corrie, honorary treasurer of Watford Spastics Society and member of the Watford Spastics Centre's management committee, has died suddenly of a heart attack at the age of 58.

Mr Corrie has been connected with the Society in Watford for over 20 years after a chance encounter with Mr Bob Lemarie, founder of the Watford Spastic Centre. In 1953, Mr Lemarie had been invited to a Watford pub to push over a pile of pennies that had been collected towards the centre. It was during the subsequent clearing-up operation that the two men had been acquainted.

Blunderbus!

OOPS — pardon our blunder, but we got on the wrong route with our fun bus at the Society's recent Fitzroy Fair, and transmitted the name of the wrong radio station. It was Capital Radio who sent along the psychedelic double-decker with its disc-jockey and discotheque which kept the fair-goers spirits-up as the rain poured down. Next time we will stay on the right wavelength.

The sun shone for Jack

THE day of the Society's Ingfield Manor School fete it poured with rain—until 2.30 pm!

Then Stars Organisation for Spastics veteran Jack Howarth stepped forward to open the fete and the sun came out.

Jack, 83, and known to fans of Coronation Street as Albert Tatlock, stood in the sweltering heat signing autographs to rain-soaked children until 5.30 pm.

At the fete made over £1,100 with the 'Save a Baby' campaign stall making £80.

A team of Army gymnasts came from Aldershot bringing their wives and children with them so that not only was there an athletic display but the families supported the fete too.

There was a wheelchair slalom, a wellie boot throwing contest, a greasy pole competition and all the traditional ingredients of the English summer fete.

He was part of the Society's history

'A pioneer to the last'



FREDERICK C. Gray, pictured above, the first Chief Accountant of the National Spastics Society, has died at the age of 86. Mr Gray retired from the Civil Service in 1952 and the same year joined the newly-formed spastics charity to look after its finances on a part-time basis.

After his retirement from The Spastics Society, Mr Gray maintained a keen interest in its work through his daughter, Mrs Sheila Rawstorne, Director of the Stars Organisation for Spastics.

Mr Gray died in his sleep at home in East Sheen, Surrey, and the funeral service took place at Mortlake Crematorium.

Many warm tributes have been paid to Mr Gray by former friends and colleagues at the Society. Just two of them are printed on the right.

MR Ian Dawson - Shepherd, a founder-member of The Spastics Society and its first Chairman, writes:

Mr Gray — he was always Mr Gray to me though we were firm friends; but he commanded much respect and anyway both of us had grown up not believing in the slapdash American style of christian - names -at -first - meeting — Mr Gray joined the Society about May 1953 to do a part-time job in the Accountants Department. Department? Alex Moira a founder member and Mr Gray were the Accounts Department!

Mr Gray didn't ask for pay just his petrol money and a small lunch allowance. He said he was bored with retirement. He had been a chief auditor on the National Assistance Board with special responsibility for detecting fraud in food and clothing coupons. I was delighted. To get a fully fledged auditor who was a financial Sherlock Holmes to do our accounts for peanuts and to relieve Alex Moira was great. Our money would be safe in the hands of this tall, thin aesthetic looking man with such a twinkle in his eyes. I thanked Sheila Rawstorne (the Society's first secretary and now SOS Director) for introducing her father.

Mr Gray did not know what hit him. Part-time! He learned quickly what so many have learned about the Society — it's all unpaid overtime! In a week he was working all day and part of the night. The Society had just issued 20,000

packets of Coronation seals — a big deal at the time. Money, real money, unexpectedly poured in. Half crowns, ten bobs, £1 notes and cheques. A whole £5,000 of it. A fortune. Mr Gray had to devise an efficient system for accounting, receipting, banking, with no staff on hand. There was no safe in the office—we had not been able to afford one. It did not bother him at all. Until he bought a safe, he just slept in the office with the day's unbanked monies safely, if uncomfortably, under his mattress.

He worked full time for 11 hectic years, never losing his enthusiasm, an invaluable asset to the Society. He was dead keen that we should make

our first financial target, £1,000,000 in five years. I always remember one day four and a half years along seeing him almost dancing along the corridor, laughing happily. We've made it! We've made it! Six months ahead of time!

I was surprised when he left the Society. He was part of the scene. He was as lively and as interested as ever and seemed indestructible. And so he remained. A very short time before he died peacefully in his sleep—he was 80 plus plus — he was noticed arguing fiercely with an MP at the Colwell Court Open Day. He was promoting the 'Save a Baby' campaign!

A pioneer to the last. A grand man.

'Unassuming and efficient'

MR Bill Hargreaves, Head of Recreational Services, writes:

It was with great sadness and a deep sense of loss that I and many of Fred Gray's former colleagues learned of his death. Mr Gray was a quite extraordinary personality — quiet, unassuming, efficient. When he heard of the urgent need for accountancy expertise by the then all too newly formed Spastics Society he volunteered to take charge of the accounting of the thousands of pounds then being received as a result of the Society's very first appeal. The impact of his presence was immediately apparent in the rapid order he brought to a chaotic situation — thousands of pounds and dozens of

volunteers trying to cope, in those days, with sixpenny postal orders from old age pensioners, and magazines received with £5 notes between each page. Only a person with his sense of humour and ability to exert quiet discipline could have coped with the situation.

There is no doubt in my mind that the financial base structure and security of the Society is largely due to the sterling work he put in during the early days. His memorial is undoubtedly the financial security of the Society.

Our heartfelt sympathy and condolences go out to his wife and to his daughter Sheila Rawstorne, the very first employee of the Society 26 years ago.

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20 years of helping youngsters into the world of work

by
**Spastics News
reporter**

THE Society's Employment Department has hatched up its 200th assessment course for young spastic people seeking jobs — almost 20 years since the first course took place.

Since 1958, a total of 690 students have attended the 200 full courses, plus 17 'mini assessments' and three specialised courses. These included our educational cruises when Spastics Society groups joined up with able-bodied youngsters in visiting Adriatic, Portuguese and Mediterranean ports.

Courses

The earlier courses were held in various parts of the country, but since the opening of the Family Services and Assessment Centre at Fitzroy Square in 1968, more courses have been held in London than elsewhere. Nowadays, the majority of courses are designed for school-leavers, although occasional sessions are still held for older people who may have been re-referred to the Society after a period of employment or training.

Follow-up over the years of students attending the courses has shown that a high percentage have gone on to vocational training at the Society's Sherrards workshop, at the former Lancaster industrial centre or an office training unit which operated for some years in Chester. Most of this further training was to lead to open employment.

Where the Society was

TOM Davis, Gerald Knights and Marjorie Brown (back row) who were students on the Society's first assessment course in 1958, meet Sally Powell and Beverley Ryan from the 200th course.



unable to offer the appropriate training scheme, many students were referred to other colleges for the disabled or for local authority further education. For some, an assessment course was the first step in a journey to university and a good degree.

Those too severely disabled to take in further training have found the assessment courses a valuable guide to their independence potential or suitability for life in a residential centre.

During the 200th course a celebration lunch was held at which three people who attended the first course were able to meet their present-day counterparts, none of whom were born in 1958. Staff members who ran the first course, Miss Margaret Morgan, now Controller of Personal Social Services and Mr Bill Hargreaves, Head of Recreational Services, were also at the lunch. They were joined by Miss Hazel Amor, then a secretary in the employment department, who now holds an important administrative post at the BBC.

After lunch, films of the first and third Assessment

Courses were shown. For Marjorie Brown, Tom Davis and Gerald Knights this evoked some hilarious memories of 1958 when they were among 21 students who spent a fortnight during the summer holidays at the Thomas Delarue School. Among the topics for discussion was 'How to live on £5 a week!'

They also held sports and craftwork sessions, practised on a telephone dial specially rigged up by the GPO, and played popular panel games such as 'What's my Line?' This encouraged the students to think positively about jobs and to stand up to the questioning of the panel.

Their jobs

Gerald Knights, who had applied unsuccessfully for over 30 vacancies, was one of four students to be placed in jobs immediately after the course, and he has worked as a clerk in The Spastics Society's accounts department ever since. Marjorie Brown attends the work centre run by Croydon, Sutton and District Spastics Society, while Tom Davis is at the Society's Thorngrove Agricultural Centre in Dorset, where he thoroughly enjoys the outdoor life.

The majority of the students on the 200th course are at

THIS cheerful group of youngsters on the Society's 200th assessment course seem undismayed by the bleak employment prospect for school-leavers. They are, standing, left to right, Beverley Ryan, Karen Chandler, Michael Lawler, Richard Wilson, Clare Malyen, Phillip McKay. Sitting, Sally Powell, Alan Wills, Mandy Rowe, Dawn Stokes, Tariq Yaqub.

special schools for the handicapped but four or five attend comprehensives and wheel-bound Sally goes to St Margaret's, Croydon, which was one of the earliest schools for the cerebral palsied in Britain.

Alan, the only student on the course who has already left school, is now at a work centre in Ashford, but would like to become a domestic in a hospital. Beverley, from Wales, does a lot of baby-sitting outside school hours and wants to go in for child care. Tariq, from Manchester, already helps with the family market stall in the holidays and will probably continue this work full time when he leaves school.

Younger

In contrast with the school-leavers of 1978, the students on the first course were somewhat older, aged between 17 and 28, and for years many had tried in vain to find employment.

Commented Miss Morgan: 'This age difference is the most significant change I've noticed in 20 years of assessment courses. In the early days we were catching up with people in their 20s or perhaps older who'd had nothing done for them at all. Now we are able to assess youngsters for employment before they leave school at a much more appropriate age for vocational guidance.'

WHAT are the chances of the youngsters in the picture, left, finding a place in the world of work? By seizing the opportunities which the Society's employment services offer, they are taking the right steps towards a satisfying future, and they also seem full of confidence for the years ahead.

But it cannot be denied that with high unemployment for the able-bodied, jobs for the disabled are even more difficult to find. Before Parliament went into recess, MP's heard some disturbing figures. It was stated that in May — the latest date for which figures were available — 69,577 registered disabled people were unemployed. That is 14.1 per cent of the total register, compared with the general level of unemployment of 5.7 per cent.

One of the ways in which disabled workers are supposed to be assisted in their search for employment is through the 'quota' rule by which all firms with over 20 workers SHOULD employ three per cent registered disabled people.

But Mr Jack Ashley, MP estimated in the Commons in July that 'thousands' of employers were now breaking the law.

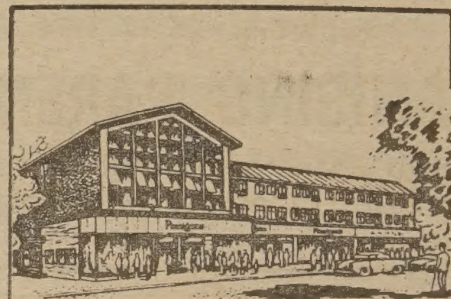
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A graceful gesture from the Duchess



DEBBIE Sherrington, a student at the Society's Thomas Delarue School, Tonbridge, Kent, was picked to present the bouquet to the Duchess of Kent at the London premiere of 'The Wild Geese,' on behalf of the Stars Organisation for Spastics and the Variety Club of Great Britain.

In the picture above, the Duchess, who is Patron of The Spastics Society, gives Debbie a spray from the bouquet as a memento. It is graceful gestures like this that makes the Duchess so popular.

Picture right shows Susan Hampshire, Sir John Mills, Chairman of the S.O.S. and Mills, at the premiere.



How Britain cares for babies

The 'staggering' facts on death and handicap

THE Earl of Westmorland hit out at the 'staggering' fact that 14,000 babies are born dead or handicapped in this country every year who would have been whole and healthy had they been born in Sweden when he spoke at the Guildhall banquet, held in support of The Spastics Society's 'Save a Baby' Appeal to industry.

'It is an astonishing fact that after 30 years of the National Health Service we are almost bottom of the European league, whereas prior to that date we had one of the better handicapped birth rates. If we make the comparison between ourselves and Sweden, some staggering figures emerge. It is the case that 4,000 babies are born dead in this country and 10,000 born with handicaps who would not have been born dead and who would have been born free of handicap if they had been born in Sweden.

'Therefore 14,000 lives have been blighted by death or handicap unnecessarily. It is these awful statistics that the Society's "Save a Baby" campaign is attacking.'

The Earl, who is President of the City Appeal, went on to spell out the cost of caring for each disabled person living to the age of 60 at around £250,000, and multiplied by 100,000, to give the figure of £2.5 billion.

Action

The campaign is to remedy this awful situation so that people will demand more action. The campaign is to articulate the suffering and thus to have action taken to deal with the problem. It is also about massive educational programmes provided by government. It is about improving the antenatal care mothers receive from the system. It is about research into handicap and finally, after accidents have happened, it is about provision of immediate and adequate intensive care.

'In this day and age prevention or preventative medicine must be a top priority. Some years ago people thought the work in these fields undertaken by charities would pass to the NHS. We know today this is not the case and charities are an essential part of society.'

The Earl spoke of the City Appeal which is seeking to raise £2 million, and said: 'We have a long way to go but under the chairmanship of Mr Bobby Walker, we will succeed because of the worthiness of the cause!'

Concern

'I would like to thank most sincerely the Appeal Committee. It is through their spirit of generosity and deep concern that so many of these busy people have agreed to help us.

'Do not be faint-hearted—we are moving down the road to our target—yesterday £240,000 was in the Appeal Fund.'

The Earl ended his address with a tribute that brought a storm of applause: 'For many years the Society has had as its Patron HRH the Duchess of Kent, who has been so enthusiastic in her support of the aims of the Society.'

'It is no longer possible to keep count of the number of times she has visited the Society's centres, of the number of times that she has shown an interest in the individual activities of people suffering from cerebral palsy, of the number of times she has spent at evenings like this, yet through them all, she has maintained an interest and deep concern which are an example to all of those with whom she comes in contact. She has lifted the hearts and lives of all those in the Society to a greater pitch than we will ever know and we are indeed grateful.'

Pool fear

The 'Save a Baby' campaign, The Society's chairman, Mr Dorrien Belson, told the guests in his speech 'has most unfortunately coincided with the publication of the Royal Commission on Gambling, which recommends depriving the Society of its income from the Spastics Pool.

'If the recommendations are implemented, the Society would be faced instead with a national lottery run by a government appointed body dispensing millions of pounds as a State handout mainly to sport and the arts.

'We are invited to make up the lost net income of over £1 million by creating from scratch a national network of lotteries — which themselves come under heavy criticism in a different part of the report.

'This suggestion is impracticable — and the handicapped will be the most adversely affected.'

Sir Keith Joseph, MP, stressed that the Society had a double task: that of increasing knowledge and bringing more

useful pressure on the decision makers of the NHS.

'I am not competent to speak more technically but can say from my own experience that The Spastics Society has been a fruitful client for research as well as a warm effective and life-enhancing user of money entrusted to them. There can be few, if any, more beneficial ways of giving money than giving it to The Spastics Society.'

'What I can talk about is the folly of starving groups like The Spastics Society by personal taxation so high that the scope for giving is stunted.

'In the health field, and probably much more widely, government spending, and I speak of all governments, cannot replace the need for private spending.

'No matter how well-intentioned Ministers may be: no matter how huge may be their budgets — and the borrowing and taxing and printing needed to pay for them — Ministers can never identify and tend all the neglected, the unfashionable areas of need and suffering as nearly as effectively as the public themselves.'

Ministers have to make choices and select priorities, he said, and went on: 'But there is no way of ensuring that the government of the day will, in fact, see that what needs to be done is done.'

Giving

'Central decision-making cannot be as beneficial as dispersed decision-making. Contrast the central decision-making, subject to innumerable pressures, with the de-centralised, do-it-yourself scope of effective voluntary bodies like The Spastics Society. Such bodies can operate both on public spending — by means of persuasion and pressure — and independently. They can commission research: they can campaign for greater understanding: they can provide treatment, advice, facilities, the care.

'And what is true for The Spastics Society is true for every other area of perceived need; need perceived not by Ministers but by those who experience the need.

'There are afflictions in this country scarcely noticed by Ministers and starved of resources because they are unfashionable and have not succeeded in exerting any pressure. The Spastics Society, partly by the poignancy of their case and partly by the character and resolution of their members and officers, have gained some recognition for their cause. But cuts in the marginal rate of personal taxation at every level of income, earned and unearned, will enable more people to give more money to charities like The Spastics Society, and the charities concerned will be able not only to bring even more effective pressure on Ministers but will be able to do more things for themselves and their causes.

'Tax cuts open doors. Tax cuts open doors for people to do or support what they choose and not to depend upon the arbitrary priorities of governments.'

Sir John Mills, as chairman of the Stars Organisation for Spastics, gave the closing address and pleaded for support for 'this wonderful campaign.'

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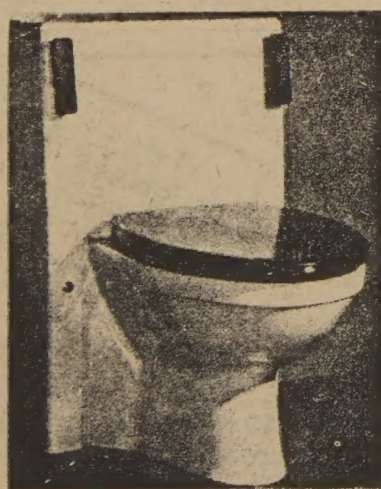
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• PICTURE coverage of the Banquet on back page.



Top dog, top prize

PICTURE left shows 1978 Crufts champion dog, Gunter Rottweiler, presenting a £10,000 cheque to Mrs Mary Walton of Lancaster, winner of a Spastics Pool first dividend. She was delighted to hear that Gunter would be making the presentation, as she is an avid dog lover.

News about the Spastics Pool Three in a row

PRESENTATION of Spastics Pool prizes is becoming a regular event in Rugby. When Ken Cotton received a cheque for £3,333 from the Mayor of Rugby, Coun Philip Blundell, he was the third Rugby winner in as many months.

Come to the Open Day

DISPLAYS of Spastics cards, jewellery produced by the Homework Section, plants and flowers from The Spastics Society's Thorngrove Agricultural Centre, basket and wicker work which is being sold to raise funds for the Stars Organisation for Spastics — just a few of the attractions at the Spastics Pool Open Day, at the Princess Marina Centre, Seer Green, Beaconsfield, between 2 and 5 pm on Saturday September 9. In addition there will be a Spastics Pool and Spastics Society displays.

The invitation to Spastics Pool supporters is from Peter Lee, warden of the centre.



Offers, Wants Announcements

EVEREST and Jennings adult, folding, self-propelled, semi-reclining wheelchair, model 8AU 250-41-774. Set of wire and set pneumatic castor wheels, additional hook on head rest extension, tray and seat cushion, condition as new, £95. Bell and Croydon bedside armed commode chair with lift-up padded seat, £9. White enamelled bedpan, £3. White porcelain slipper bedpan, £7. — Contact M. Sweeting, 125 The Greenway, Ickenham, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB10 8LS: Tel Ruislip 39251.

A SPECIALLY-designed four-berth chalet for the disabled has been built at a camping and caravan park at Torrington, North Devon. This is intended mainly for chairbound persons but includes many features to suit those with other types of disability.

Further details from Mr and Mrs A. W. Tuck, Caravan and Camping Park, Smytham Guest House, Torrington, North Devon.

FOR SALE: Highlight slide projector, six months old, 35mm. Perfect working order. Hannex (Japanese) 8mm Standard 8 Silent film projector. Zoom lens. Forward and reverse and still projection. Five years old but little used. Plus two Charlie Chaplin short films to accompany movie projector. 16 London slides with slide projector. £40 the pair.—Mrs R. A. Robinson, (01) 857 6882.

CHRISTOPHER Waters is a 33-year-old handicapped bachelor who holds down a full-time job and whose interests focus on the Christian church and social work generally. He is very keen to meet a girl who will share these interests. He can be contacted at 1 Bentcliffe Close, London Road, Maidstone, Kent.

JOHN Turner is a spastic aged 31, who drives his own car and whose hobbies include films, model railways and chess. He would like a female penfriend in her late twenties or early thirties living in the South East and his address is 22 Bysing Wood Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 7RL.

THE engagement is announced between Barry Rawlings and Marion Banks, residents of the Society's Rockingham Hostel, Rotherham, Yorkshire. The couple, who are both in wheelchairs, celebrated their engagement with a party at the hostel on July 15. They plan to marry at their local Catholic church next year.

THE Dorset Spastics Society's six-berth caravan for spastics is available for two weeks in September. It has a shower, indoor toilet, ramp, is supplied with gas and electricity and sited at Sandford Park, Holton Heath, Lytchett Minster, Dorset. Apply either to the secretary, Edward House, Talbot Drive, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset BH12 5ED, or 2 Ashling Close, Bournemouth.



WINDOW ON WALES

by Emlyn Davies

Where were our sports entrants?

FOR THE second year, The Spastics Society's Regional Games in Wales combined with the Wales Sports Association for the Disabled, and this year's event also included the paraplegics. The games were successful but it was extremely disappointing that only two spastics competitors took part. It says a lot for the initiative of Rex Codd and Alan Kerwin of the Flats, 127 Cyncoed Road, Cardiff, that they went to the trouble of asking for forms and taking part. Rex won the wheelchair dash and the wheelchair slalom.

I hope that more spastic people, who live at home or

The expert

CECILY Kearslake, the headmistress of the Society's Craig-y-Parc School, has a reputation of never doing anything by halves and this, indeed, was the case with two events before her retirement. The first was a concert at Cardiff featuring our own group Triban and the Pendyrus Male Voice Choir when £1,000 was raised. Then came the annual garden party — but the weather was appalling and it simply poured down. However, arrangements had been made to switch the party to the school and despite the rain, hundreds of people attended and at the end of the day, £3,060 had been raised.

Over £4,000 in one month is fund-raising on a mammoth scale and we all take our hats off to Mrs Kearslake and her staff.

— and our sailors?

IT is with regret that I have to tell you that this year's Sailing for the Disabled Week which was to have been held at Eglwys Nynnydd Reservoir, Margam, has had to be cancelled due to lack of support. This is all the more unfortunate when it is realised that this year could have been one of the best courses organised since we started six years ago. West Glamorgan Education Department had offered the use of its boats and safety officer; the Steel Company of Wales offered us the use of the reservoir; and the education department the use of Hendre Special School to house our trainees and helpers, and this would have meant the opportunity to show films in the evening and really make the course worth while.

Sailing is a great character-building sport, and I hope that if future courses are arranged they will not have to be cancelled in this way. Where, indeed, is that great British tradition of adventure?

Newsagents and Nerys aid petition

THE Society's local groups and staff in Wales are working at tremendous pace in support of the 'Save a Baby' petition urging the Government to take urgent action to reduce the number of babies born dead or handicapped in the UK.

The combined efforts of us all in Wales to date have realised over 15,000 signatures, which I think is an achievement when you consider the geography of the Principality. We are doing well, but we are not reaching enough people, and I am immensely pleased to report that the Western Mail has agreed to allow us to use its distribution system. All newsagents on the distribution list of the Western Mail will receive a kit containing 50 petition forms plus explanatory leaflets, and a request to distribute the forms to reliable customers. There will also be a picture of television star Nerys Hughes.

We are extremely happy that Nerys allowed us to use her photograph to attract people into the newsagents and to invite people to follow her example by signing the petition.

Negotiations with the four wholesalers in North Wales who distribute daily and weekly papers are well advanced, and there is no doubt that we will have the same co-operation in North Wales as in South Wales.

We are determined in Wales to beat our target of 100,000 signatures.

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Campaign banquet at the Guildhall

THE centuries-old Guildhall in London provided the setting for a glittering banquet attended by HRH the Duchess of Kent, The Spastics Society's Patron, in July. It was an occasion when more than 500 guests from all walks of life mingled in the Guildhall's sumptuous reception rooms before going in to a dinner funded by generous donations from over 30 companies. The banquet was in support of the Society's 'Save a Baby' campaign's City Appeal to industry and commerce.

Among the distinguished guests were the Lord Mayor of London, Air Commodore Sir Peter Vanneck, the Earl and Countess of Westmorland, Sir Keith Joseph, MP, and Sir John and Lady Mills. Also there were many who had devoted their lives to the cause of handicapped people both directly and indirectly. There were wardens from residential centres, fund-raisers, the parents of the disabled, and the disabled themselves.

The evening was also an occasion for some forthright speeches, as you can see on page 10.



● THE ancient stonework of the Guildhall frames the Royal party as the Lord Mayor, Sir Peter Vanneck, presents the City Sheriffs to the Duchess of Kent.



● SIR Keith Joseph chats with Mr Robert Knight, a member of the Stars Organisation for Spastics, and a member of the Appeal Committee.



● MR Dorrien Belson, the Society's Chairman, presents a distinguished line-up of guests to the Duchess. They are Sir John and Lady Mills, Sir Keith Joseph, Mr James Loring, the Society's Director, and his wife Anita, Mr Bobby Walker, Chairman of the Appeal and his wife, and Mr G. C. D'Arcy Bliss.



● THE Rev Basil Watson, Vicar of St Lawrence Jewry, Rural Dean of the City of London, with Mrs Anita Loring, Secretary of the International Cerebral Palsy Society. Below: Among the Society's Executive Council members who attended the banquet were Mrs Eileen Milnes, left, with her husband, and Mr Peter Rigby and his wife, right.



● Graham Burn, a former student at the Society's Thomas Delarue School, with Mr Belson and the Duchess. On the right is Graham's father, Mr William Burn, a member of the Society's Executive Council and Mr Belson's predecessor as Chairman. Below right: The Lord Mayor with Mr Belson and the Earl of Westmorland, President of the City Appeal to business and industry.



● ESTHER Lyons, aged 11, was busy at her lessons at the Society's Ingfield Manor School when her headmistress, Mrs Rosemary Siddles, came into the classroom to announce that she had been chosen to present the bouquets at the Banquet to the Duchess and Mrs Margaret Belson, wife of the Society's Chairman. Esther is pictured with Mrs Belson.

Here we are again . . .

WE apologise for the late publication of Spastics News this month. This was due to an industrial dispute at our printers.

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